

Stranger (to Indiana farmer) - "It's a great pity that the crops in this section

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nerveless fingers; the will altogether house had, it appeared, hauled the car-

as a hen does, and by and by a faint rustling spoke hop fully of her progress

you know, up to Bethlehem; from there to the White Mountains; then to Lancaster.

and is so intensly dry that it withers every green thing. According to Straprices for some that have cost combo the melamboreas precipitated men from their charriots and stripped them of their arms and vestments. Locally the saying is that the three plagues of the country are the Parliament, the mistral, and the Durance. Like our own east wind it does some good as well as a great deal of mischief, as it renders the air more salubrious by dispelling the noxious vapors from stagnant waters and marshes. In ancient times it was personified as the most dreaded of the gods of the district. The conditions of atmospheric pressure favoring the mistral are a high barometer over Europe and a 'low barometer over the Gulf of Lyons. The bise is a similar and excessively cold northerly wind in the Swiss and

"Now just before starting mother said to me, coaxingly: " 'If you go as far as Lancaster, don't

forg t that Janet Harding, the only cousin I have in the world, lives in the next town."

"Ali right,' I replie !. 'J met Harding lives in the next town to Lincaster. I'll remember ?

"Janet Harding unmarried would have been bad enough, but with a husband, two gildy girls, and an overgrown boy of 17, could I stand it? Mother thought I could, and mother rules our house.

"When we started on our bicycle trip to Dixville Notch I plannel to see the Hardings; bowl leisurely up to the door. introduce myself to Mrs. II., joke with the girls, and then proceed; but man proposes, etc.

"As luck would have it my bicycle broke down and I had to leave it at the Falls, a little village five miles from Lancaster, for repairs. Clark and Anderson went on without me to North Stratford, where I was to meet them by train, and I proceeded on foot to the there. Harding farm, some two miles from the Falls.

"The farm, a smooth interval dotted with fields of ripening grain, and the large verandahed house, and great roomy barns clustering about it, but not too near, all bespoke plenty, comfort and hosy itality.

"Hospitality, did I say? Well, I shan't take it back, although I found the door locked and not a living thing in sight except an old white hen. Mark the exception for that hea plays an important part in my adventure.

"I noticed her, and in particular marked the proud, complacent step, the conceited 'car-car' she uttered, as she looked at me knowingly from the corner of her eye. Little dil I think-but no matter. You will see 1y and by the golden thread that binds all the points together.

"Well, here we were, the white hen and I, lut Junet Harding was not, nor the girls, nor the boy, nor Mr. Harding.

"I decided to go to the barn and lis down on the hay, the new-mowa hay, and await their coming.

"For me to think, is to act. A few minutes later I had c'imbed to the mow and ensconce 1 myself under a brace in the corner where the afternoon sui glint d through a long crack, making slanting du t-beams across my breast.

"I made a few verses as I lay on the fragrant hay, but I di ln't poetizs long. I fell asleep and I dreamed, and my dreams grew thicker and blacker and heavier, until at last I dreamed that Janet Harling and her whole family said one slyly. were seated on my stomsch, and oh, the pressure! I groaned and waked myelf up, but I wasn't much better off then, for E. yptian darkness reigned about me, except for the crack where the light still sifted through.

"Where was I? What was the matter? I couldn't think, the horrible pressure Was so maddening. All about, around, to imagine that the present hour is not above, was packed piles of oats, not the critical decisive hour. Write it on

to my waiting heart. Meanwhile I was a prey to anxious thoughts.

> "Suppose she should never reach the light, but perish in her perilous jouracy, become he nmed in and unable to go any further; suppose she should lose the letter in her pasage-but a trium; hant encide assured me that the white hen hid reached the barn floor.

and blessed sight! a little later I saw her through the crack walking proudly away from the door with the letter plainly in view. "Just then two young lalies drove

into the yard, Pretty? Well, I guess so. You don't often see handsomer girls than Janet Harding's. One was dressed in scal brown, the other in navy

"'Do look at that hen!' cried Seal Brown. I do believe it's a billet-doux from your William. If it is, now, I'll clap my hands hard, just so, and I ll say, 'Billy; do send me one, too.'

blue.

"'One, two; and will it take two to satisfy you? said Navy Blue, laughing at her sister's saucy fice. I laughed, too, and fell in love with her then and

"They lured the hen toward them with a han l.ul of corn. Seal Brown swooped down and loosened the letter and read it. "I saw all this through a crack in the

bara and heard them make marry over the distress of their city cousin.

"Wel', to make a long story short, the girls du ; me out, for the men were in the madow after more oats. It seems that they were in a great hurry to get at the oats, and the hired man mowed away. Probably the first forkful covered me and that was doubtless put on without looking. Nobody knew just how it came about. When I came to view I did the best and the only thing I could do-I lau;hel and the girls laughed. It was a lu licrous introduction to the family but it served its turn. I found the girls no less charming than pretty; Hurry, a fine lad home from

college; Mrs. Hurling, a lady in every sense of the word, and Mr. Hurding, shrewd, corpulent and gool-natured, and that is all."

"All!" they echoed. "There ought to be a wedding." "There is to be a wedding," said the

other, coo'ly. "Which, Navy Blue or Seal Brown?" "Navy Blue."

"When are you to be married?" "N: ver, perhaps." "Why, I thought you said there was

to be a wedding!" "So I did. Navy Blue is to marry her William,"

"And you are in a Brown study still." Fred actually blushed.

"Yes, the most puzzling study of my life, and the most interesting," and he walked away. "Hard hit, isn't he?"

The rest nod.lcd. -[Hartford Times.

One of the commonest of illusions is

fails, and the body scems to rise and float away in spac . A heavy, dream- not giving him his paper. I concluded less sleep usually succeeds such an in- to watch the house and see who it was dulgence in the drug, and as a rule the that was stealing the papers, for I was novice awakes none the worse for the evening's experiment. A little lemon juice removes any sensation of nausea or light headache that may ensue.

Personification of the Rainbow. The rainbow is one of the atmospheric phenomena that have been most generally personified. Peoples of almost every part of the world have mide of it a living and terrible monster whose most venial offense is that of drinking up the waters of springs and ponds.

This belief is found among the Burmese, Zulus, Indians of Washington Territory, ancient M xicans, and Fians, and exists among the popular fancies of the Save and Germans, and some of the French

of Burmah imagine that the rainbow spreads sickness and death. The Karens, when they see one, say to their children: "The rainbow has come down to drink; do not play, for fear that harm may come to you!' Very singularly, too, the street boys

in Volhynia run away, crying, "Run, it will drink you up!" In Dahomey, the rainbow is regarded as a heavenly serpent, Danh, which insures happiness. The modern Greeks hold it to be a beneficent but just and severa hero; they say that any one who jumps over a rainbow will change six at once; Lut this saying which is also current in Alsace, is only a picturesque way of indicating the impossibility of transforming a man into a woman, or a woman into a man. The Delians offered cakes to the rainbow, and the Peruvians put its image on the walls of their temples. The Caribs considered its appearance on the sea a favorable presage; but on the earth its i fluence was pernicious, and they hid from its view. It was personi-

Miss McCutchcon, of Socorro, New Mexico, has a parrot that sings to the accompaniment of a piano almost perfectly. A party of friends were recently gathered at the residence of this young lady, when, for the amusement of the circle, the parrot was brought into prominence. The bird, as soon as it to whistle a popular tune. It time. whistled this tune over and over again, until one of the party suggested that the tune be changed, whereupon the parrot stopped quickly, and, casting

Misunderstood.

the servant opened the door, rereplied by whistling for the dog.

hastily remarked the mendicant. "How so?"

A gentleman sends to an agricultural populations. The Zilus and Kirens way:

A New Mexican Parrot.

fied by a viper .- [Popular Science

Monthly.

a look of contempt at the young man who made the suggestion, cried : ' Chestnuts!"

A tramp called at a house, and when

"You misunderstand me, mum."

"I asked that you should feed me,

rier over the coals and accused him of satisfied that the carrier was telling the truth. The next morning I saw the carrier throw the paper in the yard, and I concealed myself on the opposite side

of the street to await developments. In a few minutes I saw a big black Newfoundland dog climb over the fence from the adjoining yard and pick up the japer in his mouth. He then jupp d over the same fence and ran through the back yard. The next morning I waited for the canine thief, and gave him a reprimand with my club, and ever after that he let the papers alone."

How a Toad Undromes.

paper an amusing description of "How a Toad takes off his Coat and Pants." He says he has seen one do it, and a friend has seen another do it in the same

"Abcut the midlle of July I found a toad on a hill of melons, and not wanting him to leave I hoed around him; he appeared sluggish and not inclined to movy. Presently I observed him pressing his elbows against his sides and rubbing downward. He appeared so singular that I watched to see what he was up to. After a few smart rubs the skin began to burst open straight along the back. Now, said I, old fellow, call them salesrooms. Then we send you have done it; but he appeared unconcerned and kept on rubbing until he had worked all his skin into folds on his sides and hips; then grasping one hind leg with both his hands, he hauled off one leg of his pants the same as anybody would, then stripped the other hind leg in the same way. He then took his cast-off cuticle forward between his fore legs into his mouth and swallowed it; then, by raising and lowering his head, swa'-

lowing as his head came dows, he stripped off the skin underneath u til it came to his fore legs, and then grasping one of these with the opposite hand, by considerable pulling stripped off the skin; changing hands, he stripped the other, and by a slight motion of the head, and all the while swallowing, he drew it from the neck and swallowed the whole. The operation seemed an

York bird dealer as he pointed to a Java ape. "It is the best crab catcher known." "How does he manage to get the crab?" asked the Telegram's menageric critic.

"Catches 'om with his tail. He is the only kind of ape that has a long tail. When it sees a crab the spe backs up to the hole where the crab has disappeared, the animal. If you hear of anybody quested something to cat. The woman thrusts his tail into it and awaits events. who wants a good dog, let me know, The crab, feeling somewhat angry at the | and I'll sell him cheap."-[Life. intrusion, nabs the tail, the ape leaps forward, and before the crab can say-"Jack Robinson" it finds itself on dry

land with 8000 miles of terra firma not the dog," was the reply, as the under the apo, who soon chews up the

paratively little. There was one hippopotamus that our hunter, Lohse Lought for \$60 from some natives on the Settite River in A'rica. The animal was only a few days old when he bought it and it was kept for some time before it was sold for \$20,000. O course the difference between the two sums was not all or nearly all profit, but they are illustrative.

"Necessarily our hunters run into all sort; of dangers, not only from the wild beasts themselves, but from the natives in some of the wild countries they have to explore. They are trained men, though, and seldom come to utter grief though some of the men they employ are frequently killed. In Africa they will have sometimes a party of 200 or French Alps. - [Longman's Magazine. 300, or even 500 natives employed in hunting the big game. Their stories of

adventure are as thrilling as those in any book of travel, Lut the professional hunter is not often a professional story teller, and the stories that you find in books ary generally told second hand. "What do we do with our goods when we get them? They are, the most of them, taken to Germany, to our healquarters at Alfeld. There they are kept for a time if they ary out of condition in any way, or if they have to be acclimated. From Alfeld they are shipped to one of our distributing depots. We have several places in different parts of the world similar to this one. You may

direct to our cu tomers. "Who buy them? Oh, circus people, city governments and private collectors. Of course, the circus people are the largest buyers. They use up a great many animals. That is, their curiosities die faster than they would if it were not for the constant travel. They are cared for as well as possible, but of ourse the life is hard on them. Then there are public an l private zoological gardens which we supply, and multitudes of people buy all sorts of pets. Here, for instance, is a pet that would be appreciated by a great many."

And he reached down into the barrel, the bottom of which was covered with young alligators, which were squirming and straddling around in two or three inches of dirty water. Picking one of these up by the head he held it in his hand and poked it to show that it was soft, bling newly hatch d. Then he tried to see if it would bite him, and finding it wou'd not put it carefully back among its brethren.

Willing to Sell.

"That is a dangerous looking dog you have there, Deacon. Aren't you afraid he will in jure somebody?' "Well, yes," replied the deacon uneasily. "I haven't much confilence in

Out of Practice.

Woman (who has given something to eat to a tram;): You have a very awkward way of eating, man.

The Favorite Color.

It is a curious circumstance that red, the unseen color of so many, is the king color, of the normal cy .. It was especially so in ancient times. If we Hebrews scarcely ever use color as an epithet, as we do when we say "the blue sky," "the purple hills." They say, i deed, "the Red Sea;" but blue is scarcely mentioned as seen in nature, o: ly in the ""blue and purple and scarlet" of the tabernacle hangings, or the high priest's robes, or the pavement of the king's palace of "red and blue and black and while marble" in the Book of Esther. Yellow, excepting as a sign of disease, is mentioned but once or twice: 'her feathers like yellow gold." But red is largely spoken of as in later times, and perhaps as incorrectly, for we did not invest, we only inherit, the expression, "red gold," "red wine," one of these being merely orange, and the other a ruddy purple. "Red hair" is a modern, or rather mediaval inaccur. acy; "rel cow" we got from the ancients. These epithets all appear to

show a certain fancy for cailing things red as the more kingly and costly color. -[Good Worls.

A Remarkable Tree.

A Nevada paper describes a remark. able kind of tree which is sail to grow in that purt of the country, and which certainly possesses qualities of great value according to the description. The trees do not grow large, a tree with a trunk about a foot in diameter being much above the average. When dry, the wood is about as hard as boxwood, and being of very fine grain, might, no doubt, be used for the same purpose. It is of a rich red color and very heavy. When well seasoned it would be a fine material for the wood curver. In the early days it was used for making boxes for shafting, and in a few instances, for shoes and dies in quartz batteries. Used as a fuel it creates intenso heat, It burns with a blaze as long as or dinary wood would last, and then it is found---alm > t unchanged in form--- con-

have been so badly damaged by rain." Indiana farmer (taking a sun-bath)-"Wall, ya'as, mister, but it saves a sight o' work harvestin'."

"Dear me,' said the little Boston boy, after intellectual suasion had failed, and they had spanked him for the first time; "if I had had the slightest suspicion that the resultant sensation was so poignant. I should never have invited the experiment."

Wife (who has the foreign-language "spasm") - "John, do you know I'm getting on splendidly with my French? I am really beginning to think in the language." Husband (interested in his paper)-"Is that so? Let me hear you think a little while in French."

Skin-Grafting.

Where the skin has been destroyed by burns or other injuries it may be renewed by transplanting small pieces of favorite color, and may be called the living skin from other parts or even from the lower pnimals. Dr. Redard of Paris has thus successfully treated a examine the Bible we shall find that the severe burn of the scalp in a child two years of age. The wound measured three inches by two and a half, over which area the skin was entirely destroyed. He first tried grafts of frog's skin, but as these proved repulsive to the patient he took the skin from beneath the wing of a chicken and in two months the wound was completely skinned over. The doctor neglects to state whether any feathers have yet sprouted on the child's head, but unless a natural law is suspended in this case, such is sure to be the result. What a vista is here opened up! The woman of the future will discard bonnets, since a simple process of skin-grafting will crest her like a cockatoo or adorn her head with a natural growth of the most brilliant plumage of the tropics. But how about her appearance when she is moulting?-[Chicago News,

Knowing Turkeys.

Last summer Mrs. James McConnell, of Cadiz, O., had a brood of fine young turkeys caught in a hail-storm, by which several of them had each a leg broken. The grass being high near the house she could only find one of the unfortunates, which she picked up carefully, and with splinters placed on each side of the fracture bound up the broken part. A day or two passed, and sho had forgotten the incident, when what was her astonishment one afternoon to see approaching her in the yard the old turkey with her brood-five-with broken legs. These, under the leadership of the one she had operated upon, camo chirping up to her and would not leave until she had bound each one's fractured

Ear Trumpet for an Ox.

leg.

A farmer near Chebanse, Ill., having an ex that did not obey orders concluled that the animal was deaf and bought an ear trumpet, which worked with verted into charcoal that lasts twice as great success. The animal had lost its long as ordinary wood. For fuel a appetite, but with its return of hearing cord of it brings about the same price ate heartily. The ear-trumpet is fas-

was brought into the room, commenced agreeable one, and occupied but a short A Crab-Catching Ape.

"That's a lone fisherm 13," said a New

